

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

***STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION***

***Carol A. Murray, Commissioner***

**For Immediate Release**

April 19, 2002

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**POLICE PATROLS RESUME AT MEMORIAL BRIDGE IN PORTSMOUTH**  
***EFFORT CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE CYCLISTS TO WALK BIKES ON SIDEWALK***

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation announces random police details by both the Portsmouth, NH and Kittery, ME police departments are resuming in order to encourage the safe use of the sidewalks on the Memorial Bridge over the Piscataqua River.

Because the lift bridge has a metal grid deck, many cyclists choose to use the wood-planked sidewalks on either side of the Memorial Bridge. Both sidewalks are too narrow to allow cyclists riding their bikes to safely pass pedestrians.

Despite the presence of signs that read "Bicyclists Must Walk Bikes on Sidewalk", many cyclists have continued to ride their bikes on the sidewalks. This poses safety risks to the cyclists, to pedestrians, and to gate operators on the Memorial Bridge.

In an effort to ensure the safety of everyone using the sidewalks on the Memorial Bridge, NHDOT representatives met last summer with representatives of the Portsmouth and Kittery police departments. Both departments have agreed to continue to use random details to enforce local ordinances in both communities that ban the riding of bicycles on sidewalks.